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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES  
OF PHILADELPHIA.

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VOL. III.      MARCH AND APRIL, 1847.      No. 8.

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*Stated Meeting, March 2, 1847.*

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Mr. Richard C. Taylor presented a large and valuable collection of fossils and rocks, from various parts of the world, of which a list will be published in a future number.

Specimen of Fluor spar with crystallized Galena, from Freiburg, Saxony; specimens of crystallized Manganese and Manganese ore, from Ihlfeld, Harz Mountains; Analcime from Fassathal, Tyrol, and two fossil fish from the Zechstein formation. Presented by Mr. Theodore F. Moss.

The following mounted skeletons were received from Dr. Morton in exchange, viz:—*Bradypus tridactylus*, *Podargus Stanleyanus*, *Dacelo gigantea*, and *Astur Novæ Hollandiæ*.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

*Iconographie Ornithologique*; par O. des Murs. 4to. 4th and 5th Livs. Deposited by Dr. T. B. Wilson.

*Revue Zoologique*; par la Société Cuvierienne. Annees 1838–1845. From the same.

*Magasin de Zoologie*; par F. E. Guerin, Annees 1831–1844. From the same.

Oken's Isis; Encyclopædische Zeitschrift vorzüglich für Naturgeschichte, vergleichende Anatomie und Physiologie. Hefts 1-8. 1846. From the same.

The Dog: by William Youatt. Edited with additions by E. J. Lewis, M. D. Philadelphia, 1847. From Dr. Lewis.

Hybridity in Animals and Plants, considered in reference to the question of the Unity of the Human Species. By S. G. Morton, M. D. New Haven, 1847. From the Author.

Literary Record and Journal of the Linnean Association of Pennsylvania College. Vol. 3. No. 5. From the Association.

American Journal of Agriculture and Science. Conducted by Dr. E. Emmons and A. Osborn, Esq. No. X. Feb. 1847. From the Editors.

The following were received from Dr. Morton, in exchange for fourteen Human Crania now in the cabinet of the Society: Fauna Boreali-Americana. By John Richardson, Esq., F. R. S., &c. Part 1, Mammalia. Part 2, Birds. 4to. London, 1829 and 1831.

A Supplement to the Appendix of Captain Parry's Voyage for the discovery of a North-west passage, in the years 1819-20. Containing an account of the subjects of Natural History. 4to. London, 1824.

Ornithologia Suecica. Auctore W. Nillson. Pars prior. 8vo. Havniæ, 1817.

Tentamen Systematis Amphibiorum. Auctore Blasio Merrem. 8vo. Marburgi, 1820.

Histoire Naturelle generale des Pigeons et des Galinacees; par C. J. Temminck. 3 vols. 8vo. Amsterdam and Paris, 1813.

Principles of Geology. By Charles Lyell, Esq., F. R. S. 4 vols. 8vo. 4th Edition. London, 1835.

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Dr. Morton read a communication from the Rev. Dr. Bachman, of South Carolina, on the subject of Hybridity in Birds and Quadrupeds.

The following communication was read from Messrs. Aaron Sharpless and William Kite, of Chester country, Pennsylvania, dated 2d mo. 18th, 1847, in reference to the living Hybrids between the Guinea fowl and the turkey, lately presented by them to the Society.

"The mother was a common Guinea fowl, the survivor of two or three chicks hatched under a common hen two years ago from eggs presented to us. From constantly associating with the poultry, and having none of her own species for companions, she was rather unusually domestic.

The father was a common turkey cock, the reputed father of our flock of turkeys, having nothing very remarkable in his habits.

Last spring the hen having arrived at maturity, was observed to drop one or two eggs, as though preparing for incubation. Supposing them to lack vitality, we procured a cock of the same species from a neighbor, and confined them together in a coop for a few days. On releasing them, the new comer remained for some days and then disappeared. Supposing our object to have been accomplished, the hen was now suffered to form her nest in peace, which she did, laying twenty-two eggs, differing in no respect that we can now remember, either in size or colour from common.

When within a few days of maturing these eggs, her nest was broken up by an opossum, which destroyed nearly all of them; she however gathered the remnant together and brought off three chicks: the surviving two are those now in the possession of the Academy; discovering the hybridity of these, we have much regretted the loss of the rest of the brood.

As the chicks advanced toward maturity, they began to excite our attention by peculiarities which induced us to suspect their hybridity. The young of the guinea fowl assume the colour of the adult, but these always had the rusty brown tinge on their plumage which now marks them. They never were able to compass the note of their mother so familiar to our boyish reminiscence, but always ran into a cracked or falsetto key, which seemed laboured. They were quiet birds, differing in this from the guinea, whose clamor is so disagreeable in the poultry

yard as to induce many persons to discard them. In the figure of these birds, their heads, and the size and appearance of their legs and feet, there is a greater resemblance to the turkey than to the dung-hill fowl, the only other bird a cross like the present could be traced to. One habit they had peculiar to the turkey, that of erecting the feathers on the back of the neck. The plumage of these birds also partakes somewhat of the peculiarities of that of the turkey, though curiously blended with that of the pintado.

In a poultry yard we always find the guinea fowls masters of the place, in which peculiarity our hen shared, boldly attacking any who offended her, and readily putting the cocks to flight. This latter circumstance seems to negative the probability of the cross we are examining being with the latter fowl.

We consider ourselves further confirmed in supposing the turkey before alluded to, to be the father of these hybrids, from the fact that he was the only male turkey then in the poultry yard, and very close attentions were noticed between him and the hen, which were fully reciprocated on her part, though the act of sexual intercourse escaped our observation."

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Professor Johnson offered some observations on the cellulose of the Borneo Palm, and its reaction with Nitric and Sulphuric acids, by which it was apparently converted into Zyloidine, and not into Pyroxiline.

The Curators exhibited a mass of minute black insects, (Acari?) which had been received from the Rev. James H. McFarland, of Reading, Pa., by whom they had been collected on the Broad mountain, near the Summit Coal mines, Schuylkill county, Pa, on the 28th of December last. The snow for a quarter of a mile along the road was covered to blackness with these insects, and heaps from which a peck could have been collected, were frequent on the road. The day was warm for the season. A few more were obtained on a subsequent day, during a fall of snow.

The Curators having announced that a National Medical Convention was to assemble in this city in the early part of May next, it was on motion,

*Resolved*, That the Curators be authorized to tender to the delegates from the city and county of Philadelphia to the National Medical Convention, the use of the Hall of the Academy during the session of the Convention.

Also, on motion, *Resolved*, That the Library Committee, in conjunction with the Librarian, be instructed to devise plans for book cases in the new Library and Meeting room, and report the same at the next meeting of the Society.

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*Stated Meeting, March 9th, 1847.*

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Professor Johnson presented the following:  
Sigillaria pachyderma, from South Joggins, Bay of Fundy, N. S., and also from Cranberry Head, Cape Breton ; Stigmara fucoides from the same localities.

The following minerals were presented by Mr. Moss :  
Feather Ore, and Galena, from Freiburg, Saxony ; Carbonate of Iron, from Erzburg, Styria ; and Arragonite from Bohemia.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

American Journal of Science and Arts, No. 8. Vol. 3. New series. From the Editors.

Proceedings of the Boston Natural History Society ; pp. 177 to 192 inclusive. From the Society.

Geological results of the Earth's contraction in consequence of cooling. By James D. Dana. New Haven. 1847- From the Author.